



Natural History of Native Bees: Diversity, Ecology, and Conservation

June 21–27, 2026

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New England is home to a rich diversity of wild bees. In this introductory course, you'll develop a deep appreciation for the diversity, ecology, and behavior of these charismatic pollinators. Throughout the week, we will explore a variety of habitats in search of bees and learn skills including, but not limited to, field identification to genus, voucher specimen collection, nest searching, photography, and journaling. Afternoon lab work will reinforce identification skills through microscopy. Coursework will be enriched with evening lectures on related topics including pollination biology, the role of bees in agriculture, and strategies for supporting bees in natural and cultivated spaces. This seminar will be of interest to naturalists, gardeners, farmers, landscape designers, and managers of public and private lands. Ultimately, we will aim to cultivate curiosity about the natural history of bees and their interactions with plants and animals, and leave you with practical, concrete skills for deepening this understanding on your own.

Nick Dorian, Ph.D. (dorianscale3@gmail.com) is an ecologist, educator, and naturalist. Currently, Nick is postdoctoral research scientist at Chicago Botanic Garden where he studies the ecology of urban pollinator gardens.

Max McCarthy (m.mccarthy0798@gmail.com) is a Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers University, where he studies populations of the rare *Parnassia* mining bee and the pollination ecology of their host plant, Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia*).